



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

The Official Internal Newsletter
of the Department of Education

NEWSFLASH

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24-JULY 2025

67 MINUTES IN JAMELA: NELSON MANDELA DAY

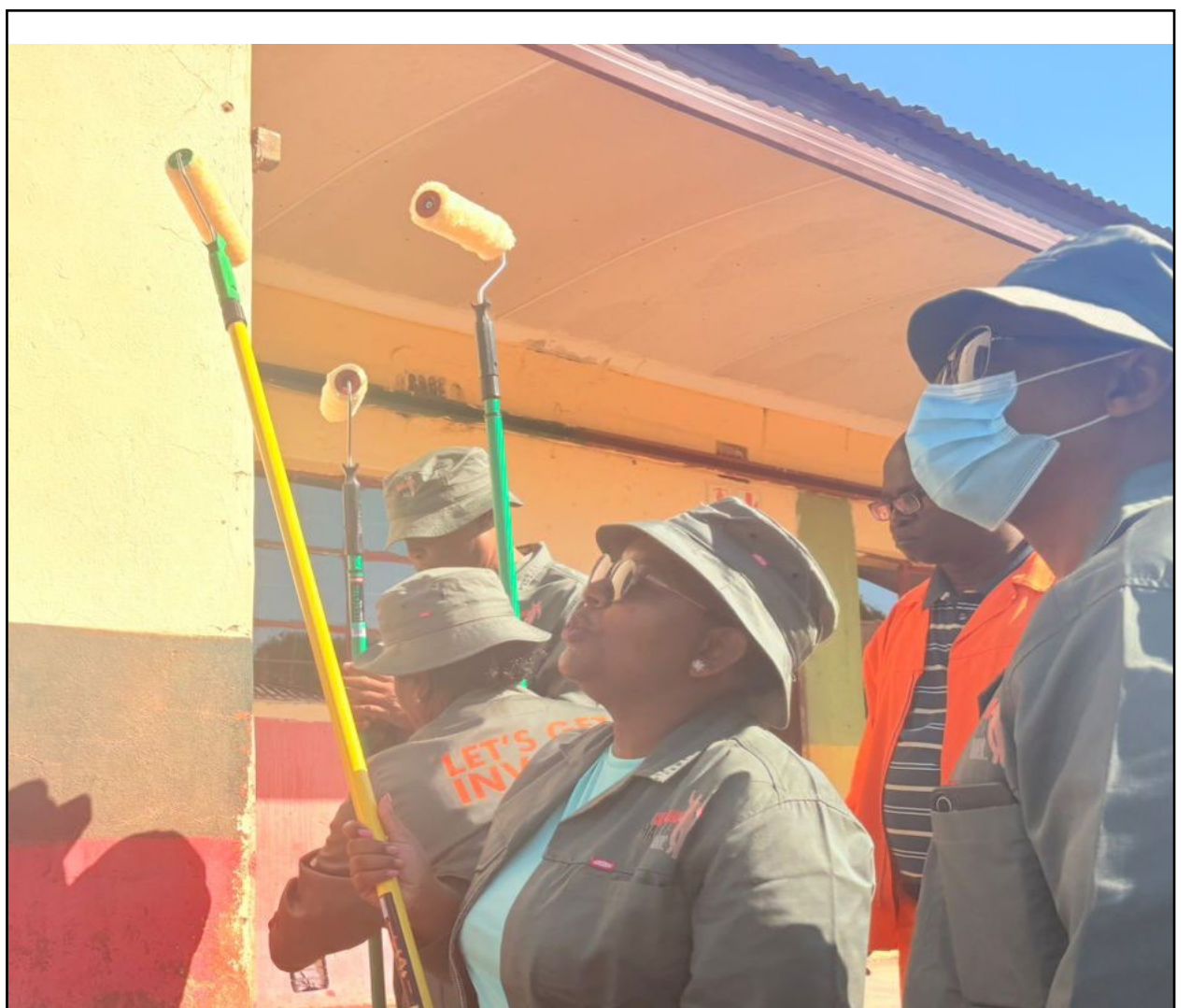
By: Hanedzani Mbedzi



It was a gleeful and heart-warming moment in Jamela Village as the community came together to celebrate Nelson Mandela Day. In her 67 minutes of service, Limpopo MEC for Education, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, joined hands with the people of Jamela and various stakeholders to paint Khosouthupa Early Childhood Development Centre in Mopani East Education District, under the Greater Letaba Municipality.

This heartfelt gesture aimed to support Early Childhood Development (ECD), nurture young minds, and give back to the community, honouring the legacy of Tata Nelson Mandela. Themed "It is still in our hands to combat poverty and inequality," the day highlighted the power that individuals and communities have to make a difference. Using education as the most powerful weapon to change people's lives.

Khosouthupa ECD Centre was



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founded in 1992, with just two blocks. Currently the centre has 7 classes, 6 teachers and 115 learners. A block was repainted, making the centre looking bright and beautiful. "We are grateful for the wonderful gesture, and believe that our learners will learn in a bright and colourful environment which brings out the best in them," said Sekgobela Francinah, Khosouthupa ECD centre principal.

In a symbolic act of growth and hope, trees were planted at the centre, signifying new beginnings and a brighter future for the learners of Khosouthupa ECD centre.

George Maluleke, a representative of Malumash Enterprise and one of the sponsors of the event, emphasized the importance of creating lasting change in people's lives. "The main reason for today was to see a change in the life of a small child. As developers, our responsibility is to ensure that everyone, especially learners, lives in an inclusive and supportive environment," he said.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya took the opportunity to address the community and expressed her appreciation to all stakeholders and community members who supported the programme, reaffirming the Department's commitment to nurturing spaces for learners to grow, learn, and thrive." Mandela Day is about forgiveness and giving, we are here to leave our hearts and warmth to our learners, saying that we care and love them." concluded the MEC.



FOUNDATION PHASE FOR LIFE LONG LEARNING

By Mmathaba Sape



Seshego-The Limpopo Department of Education's commitment to strengthen the Foundation Phase and support the holistic development of young children in ECD centers across the province continues to act and create impact. As part of an effort to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning and fostering the child's development, MEC for Education Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya paid a visit to Maphuti Day Care center in Seshego, Capricorn South Education District to monitor, support and handover ECD toys and learning materials.

The center, which has a total enrolment of 68 children, with 39 set to progress to Grade R next year,

benefited from the department's ongoing efforts to enhance the ECD centers. MEC emphasized the importance of investing in early education, highlighting its critical role in building a solid educational foundation

"Investing in early childhood development is crucial for building a solid educational foundation for every child" said MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya. She further stressed the need for ECD centers to have a proper infrastructure that meets the developmental needs of children, ensuring a safe and nurturing environment.

The MEC also encouraged ECD practitioners and centers to take

advantage of available online study programs aimed at professional growth and improved delivery. The initiative aims to equip practitioners with the necessary skills and knowledge to provide high quality care and education to young learners. "We are thrilled to receive these ECD toys and learning materials which will greatly enhance our teaching and learning environment. This support will enable us to provide our children with engaging and interactive learning experience, setting them up for success in their educational journey" said Celia Lebeso, ECD Principal at Maphuti Day Care Centre.



Limpopo had successful Winter Enrichment Camps

By Hanedzani Mbedzi, Katlego Mashula, Conny Mabunda & Mmathaba Sape



In elevating education to its rightful place, MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya visited Sekhukhune East Education District winter enrichment camps held at Tivumbeni College of Education, Nkowankowa circuit. As part of the department's support programme to inspire confidence in learners, MEC continues to prioritize winter enrichment camps to offer focused support. Learners are using the opportunity to catch and revise on specific subjects and key focus areas. Learners housed in one of the residential camps were selected based on mid-year results at Levels 1 and 2 in Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting to improve their learning performances. Sekhukhune East Education District performed optimally well obtaining number one in Term 1 in the province. Tivumbeni College of Education was buzzed with activities as 701 learners and 30 principals across the seven circuits in Sekhukhune East Education District assembled to offer the much-needed support. Sekhukhune East hosted the highest number of enrichment camps and their hard work did not go unnoticed as the Minister of Basic Education, Siviwe Gwarube honored them with a special award. With strong academic support from Kagiso Trust, the district's performance has improved, marking a new chapter of excellence in education. The district gathered to prepare

learners for the upcoming examinations by engaging with them directly, providing motivation and helping them understand the critical importance of the camp aimed at shaping their academic success. Precious Sekgobela, a learner at Leolo Technical High School said she is grateful for the winter camp held from 13th to 19th July. She also indicated that the programme has changed her life.

"The enrichment classes are really helping me, not just academically but also spiritually. I have learned that as much as I pray, I must also study. The MEC truly cares about us, not just in words but through her actions. I thank her and Kagiso Trust for this opportunity. I have improved from being an average learner to understanding concepts I struggled with for months." she said

"We offer support to learners in the classroom, and by doing so, we aim to close the gap for those selected to attend these enrichment camps. We also administer post-tests, which help us measure the impact of our intervention. The programme is bearing fruit and making a real difference in the lives of learners. Our mentors, employed by Kagiso Trust, visit schools daily including weekends and holidays to provide academic support. We also support teachers who teach Mathematics and Physical

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Sciences,” said Fausa Mamabolo, Project Manager from Kagiso Trust in Sekhukhune Education District.

MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya appreciated Curriculum Advisors, Circuit Managers and principals for their sterling work and commitment to the course. “We can see the fruit of circuit managers and the team coming to existence. We are on the rise, you should still keep being on the rise. I am happy that we are progressing. In this month we focused on saying thank you

to teachers and circuit managers for the winter enrichment classes, I am happy that the camp is back,” concluded the MEC.

In the same development, MEC visited camps in Vhembe West Education District to continue encouraging and motivating learners at Dzata Secondary school, Patrick Ramaano Secondary and Makhado Comprehensive High school. She used the opportunity to give message of support to Grade 12 learners, reminding them that education is the key to success. .

MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya alongside Thulamela Mayor, Cllr. Sarah Rambuda again visited Mphaphuli Secondary and Raluswielo Secondary schools in the Vhembe East Education District, Sibasa area to monitor winter enrichment camp and school infrastructure progress and assess the facilities.

Moreover, MEC Ramakhanya engages with learners at Sethwethwa Secondary School in Ga Rakgoatha Village, Capricorn South Education District, to monitor the winter school camps were attendees included circuit managers, representatives from unions such as SADTU, PEU, COSASGB, SGB members, principals, ward councilors, and INSETA. The engagement underscored collaborative efforts to support learner achievement in the district.

The visit forms part of the department’s commitment to strengthen service delivery and address infrastructure challenges faced by schools across the province. MEC Lerule -Ramakhanya engaged with school management to identify urgent needs and reaffirmed the department’s` dedication to creating safe and well -equipped learning spaces for all learners.



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Sethethwa secondary school



Patrick Ramaano Secondary School



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Mphaphuli and Raluswielo secondary schools



Dzata Secondary School



Continues on page 8

Makhado comprehensive school



MAMELODI SUNDOWNS HOSTS SPORTS ASSESSMENT TRIALS FOR LEARNERS IN LIMPOPO

By Katlego Mashula



Polokwane- it was an event for hope for aspiring young footballers in Polokwane. In Strengthening partnership between established soccer team, Education and Sports Arts and Culture, the Limpopo Department of Education MEC

Mavhungu-Lerule-Ramakhanya alongside MEC Jerry Maseko addressed 400 young learners from different schools across the Province invited by Mamelodi Sundowns at Peter Mokaba Rugby Field. The address by the two MEC's was

aimed at motivating and encouraging learners to do well in the sport assessment trials and give their all in securing their future as professional players. The assessment trials were not only to identify future stars but to also provide them with a platform for

development.

The Head of Academy of Mamelodi Sundowns, Paulo Cardoso highlighted that sports is good for the holistic development of learners. "There is talent in Limpopo so as an academy we provide an opportunity to change the lives of these learners so that one day they could also become professionals. We provide support of the development of players inside and outside the pitch," said Paulo Cardoso.

"Not many clubs offer support to learners just as Mamelodi Sundowns does, I appreciate the collaboration. Learners must seize this moment, be disciplined and prove to everyone that you are talented and deserve this opportunity." said MEC of Sports Arts and Culture, Jerry Maseko

In the event of the trials, learners were given an opportunity to showcase their football skills and were assessed by coaches and talent scouts


MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya appreciated Mamelodi Sundowns for the continuous recognition and absorbing learners within the Province. "To learners partaking in the trials, I am wishing you well. An opportunity comes once, embrace it, if you are not selected today, it does not mean that you are not the best, remember we are all winners. To Mamelodi Sundowns, as Limpopo we are excited as you are living to your word that you would come back and select more learners to be part of your Programme." concluded MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya.

The collaboration between Mamelodi Sundowns and Limpopo departments continues to pave the way for youth empowerment through sports, giving young learners the chance to dream and achieve big.





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**2026 LEARNER ADMISSIONS:
FIRST TIME ADMISSION**

Grades R, 1 and 8 registration forms must be collected from the school:

2 June 2025 -31 July 2025

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Birth certificate or acceptable proof of birth date
- Immunization card
- Transfer card
- Last report card



If one is not a South African citizen, the following documents are important:

- Study/work permit
- Temporary or permanent residence permit from the South African Department of Home affairs
- Evidence to show that there is application for permission to stay in RSA

The Department will monitor the learner admissions process very closely to ensure that the rights of learners are protected at all times.

"Every Child is a National Asset"

**MEC Mavhungu
Lerule-Ramakhanya**

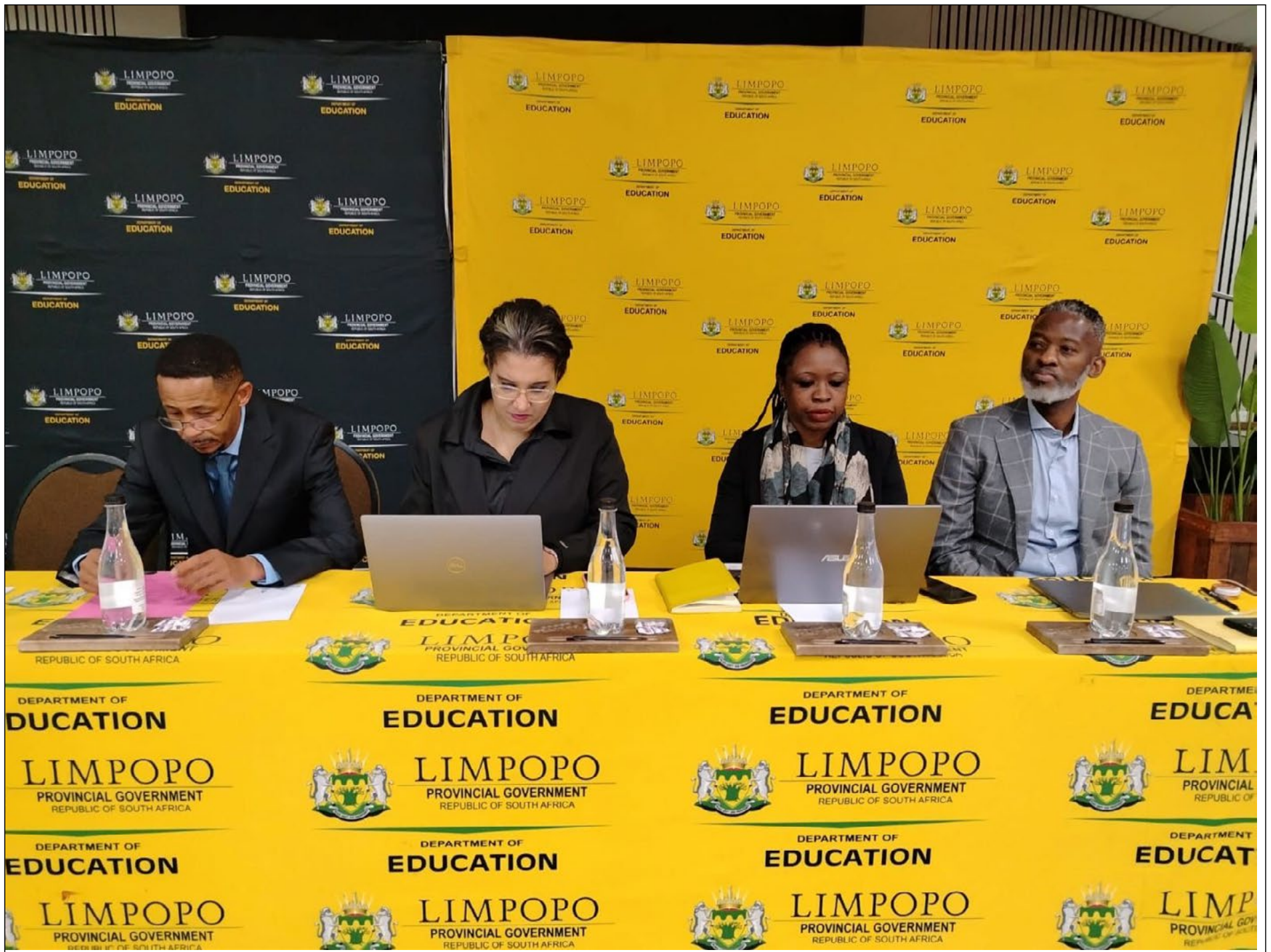



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The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people

Limpopo Leads in ECD Implementation and Transformation

By Conny Mabunda



Polokwane- A foundation for lifelong learning was laid as The Limpopo Department of Education hosted a comprehensive Early Childhood Development (ECD) Induction workshop in Bolivia Lodge, drawing together a wide range of stakeholders such as DBE officials, District Directors, ECD infrastructure team, circuit managers, social workers

and landscape and to ensure successful and sustainable implementation of the ECD strategy, with Limpopo recognized by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) as the leading province in the programme’s rollout. The province has a total of 3984 ECD centres and 5 operating mobile trucks. For the 2025–2026 academic year, the target is to provide ECD access to

share and Mobile ECD Funding are utilized.

Acting Deputy Director Dr. Moses Simelane, standing in for Acting Head of Department Martin Mashaba, opened the session by emphasizing the importance of a collective approach. The core objective of the gathering was to ensure that everyone understands their role in the ECD programmes. Emphasis was placed on the pivotal roles of various stakeholders, from caregivers and educators to community members in ensuring the smooth running and Success of the programmes which was dependent on shared responsibility and collaboration. Key focus areas discussed included registration, monitoring and departmental alignment, with a firm goal of equipping all stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and tools to operate effectively within the ECD framework.



and Legal services. The purpose of the workshop was to align efforts in improving the province’s ECD

391574 children. In order to achieve this, three key funding sources which are ECD Conditional Grant, Equitable

Social work services manager Susan Ngonyama outlined the 2030 ECD Strategy under the theme “Every Child Has a Right to Access

Early Learning. “The strategy aims to ensure full involvement across departments and communities. She emphasized the need for collaborative ownership, stating that the success of the programme hinges on shared responsibility. “ Efforts were previously fragmented but after the induction workshop, collaboration should be visible in schools, ECD centres and within the work of social workers,” concluded Mrs. Ngonyama.

Social worker supervisor Abigail Moeng, noted that Limpopo’s progress was made possible by the dedication of a few individuals, highlighting the need for greater involvement moving forward. However, challenges such as late payment of ECD centres remained and threatens the stability of service provision.

E-cares representative Tebogo Chake, leading transformation and behavioural change initiatives, presented the broader vision for ECD as a driver of societal improvement. He noted that transformational work requires engaging communities and



approach. He also highlighted the Bana Pele brand, aimed at improving accessibility and inclusivity in government services.

has prompted discussions on targeted interventions to expand access and raised questions about how many children still need to be accommodated and how to bring NGOs, donors, government programmes and the private sector into alignment. A quality assurance and support system has been implemented nationwide to ensure compliance across all provinces. All programmes under the ECD umbrella are expected to meet national standards and quality benchmarks. “As a way Forward, the Department of Basic Education and provincial Project Management Units (PMUs) are now fully established and operational, working in coordination with tools such as eCares to monitor and support implementation,” concluded Chake.

Limpopo’s recognition as a leader in ECD implementation is a testament of commitment in its stakeholders. As it continues to push forward, the hope is that increased participation, funding and quality assurance will further strengthen the foundation for early childhood education and ensuring that no child is left behind.



enabling government systems to adapt. The introduction of systems such as CECA MAS registration and eCares are examples of this adaptive

The current reality reveals that 43% of children in the country are attending ECD centres while 57% remain unreachable. This statistic



NATIONAL SCHOOL SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS IGNITE PASSION AND TALENT

By Mmathaba Sape



KwaZulu: The 2025 Winter National School Sport Championships (NSSC) took place from July 12 to 14, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Howard Campus, Old Mutual Sport Hall in Durban. The event has become a premier platform for young athletes to showcase their skills and passion for sports, and this contributes immensely towards the improvements of physical health and can tremendously instil important values and character traits such as teamwork, respect and resilience among young people.

This year's championships featured under-15 and -19 girls and boys competing in netball, football, and rugby. Over three action-packed days, learners showcased sportsmanship in a celebration of school sports. Teams from various provinces battled it out on the field, demonstrating exceptional teamwork, and strategy. The championships were a testament to the talent and dedication of South Africa's young athletes.

In the closing ceremony, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Mr. Mntomuhle Khawula, delivered a keynote address emphasizing the importance of school sports in building character, fostering teamwork, and promoting healthy lifestyles among learners.

Championship Highlights, Team Limpopo secured Position 8 in the 2025 Winter NSSC and Limpopo's participants Mokgadi



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Bopape from Piet Joubert Secondary school, Capricorn South and Blessed Matanza achieved Third Position in quiz competition.

MEC Mr. Mntomuhle Khawula stated, "School sports are a vital platform for nurturing talent, promoting inclusivity, and building the leaders of tomorrow. We celebrate the spirit of competition, companionship, and achievement displayed by all participants."

The National School Sport Championships provide a vital opportunity for young athletes to develop their skills, build confidence, and learn valuable life lessons through sports.

A Platform for Future Stars, The championships serve as a launchpad for

identifying and nurturing talented young athletes, past winners of the National School Sport Championships have gone on to make significant impacts in their communities and beyond. The likes of Sibongile Mthembu 2018 Netball Winner, now a player for the KwaZulu-Natal provincial netball team, mentoring young athletes in her hometown;

Lumumba Mabuza 2017 Rugby Winner, currently studying sports science at a top South African university, coaching at a local rugby academy; and Nthabiseng Mokgothu 2019 Football Winner, Represented South Africa in international school tournaments and now plays for a women's league team. These stories highlight the lasting impact of the championships in shaping young athletes' futures.

The 2025 Winter National School Sport Championships concluded with a celebration of youth sportsmanship and talent, leaving a lasting impact on the learners who participated.

Be Alert of of fake news! The school calendar has not changed and remains the same as previously announced. Please be aware that any posts claiming a new school calendar are false.

2025 Calendar for Public schools

January 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Public and School Holidays 2025	
01 January	New Year's Day
21 March	Human Rights Day
18 April	Good Friday
21 April	Family Day
27 April	Freedom Day
28 April	Freedom Day' observed
29 April	Special school holiday
30 April	Special school holiday
01 May	Workers' Day
02 May	Special school holiday
16 June	Youth Day
09 August	National Women's Day
24 September	Heritage Day
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Day of Goodwill

April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

	Weekends		School days		Special school holidays
	Days for administration		Public holidays		School holidays

SUMMARY OF 2025 CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Duration	No. of weeks	No. of days	No. of public holidays	Actual no. of school days
(13) 15 January - 28 March	11	53 (55)	1	52 (54)
08 April – 27 June	12	59	5+3	51
22 July – 03 October	11	54	1	53
13 October – (10) 12 December	09	43 (45)	0	43 (45)
Total	43	209 (213)	7+3	199 (203)